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RSFSR RIVER NAVIGATION EXPANDED;
IRTYSH FINALLY ICE-FREE

SMALL RIVER ROUTES GET NEW SHIPS -- Izvestia, No 125, 4 Jun 49

The ship lines on small rivers in the RSFSR are organized on 220 rivers having a total length of 27,000 kilometers. Various types of freight are carried, including agricultural products, construction materials, petroleum products, coal, and peat. Passenger transport has increased continually. In 1948, twice as much freight was transported over small rivers as in 1947, and in May 1949, freight transport was double that of May 1948.

Additional ships are continually being made for the small river fleet. A number of shipbuilding and ship-repair enterprises have been built which are producing, among other kinds of ships, new types of cutters and barges. A new tug cutter with 150-horsepower capacity has recently been built. A 90-horsepower cutter is under construction now. Production of barges for fuel transport has been started.

At present, preparations are being made to open up new water routes for transport purposes. Machines for dredging and deepening rivers have been produced and surveys are now being conducted.

Development of small rivers is closely allied with construction of rural GESs. The Gores'skiy and Mamontovskiy kolkhos hydroelectric power plants have already been put into operation on the Tana River. The Tana has been made navigable and its waters are also used for irrigation. Construction work on the Tana is continuing. The same type of work is being done on other small rivers.

IRTYSH NAVIGATION DELAYED BY ICE -- Bol'shevik Altaya, No 71, 22 Apr 49

Navigation has started on the Irtysh River, which has been freed of ice from its upper waters to Semipalatinsk. On 21 April the first ship, the tug steamer Sovnarkom, arrived in Ust'-Kamenogorsk from Glubokoye.

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Bol'shevik Altaya, No 64, 12 Apr 49

The dynamiting of ice on the Ul'ba from the bridge to the junction of the river with the Irtysh has been completed. The Ul'ba was blocked by ice at the 22-kilometer mark and a demolition brigade had been sent to clear it away. The level of the Ul'ba at the bridge had risen 21 centimeters by 11 March.

Dynamiting of ice on the Irtysh is being carried on in the vicinity of the wharf and below for 12 kilometers. There have already been 1,500 dynamitings and there are to be 200 - 250 more.

Ice on the Irtysh has been unusually thick this year, in places as thick as 1½ meters.

Bol'shevik Altaya, No 69, 19 Apr 49

Ice flow on the Irtysh River this year is unusual and is accompanied by cases of ice blocking. A large ice obstruction formed within the city limits between the docks and the meat combine. The obstruction has lasted 2 days and is threatening to flood a considerable part of the city.

The emergency flood commission has taken a number of measures to forestall the flood, such as blasting in the vicinity of the meat combine, but the water level has not changed. Work has been started on strengthening the shore embankment in the vicinity of Proletarskaya and Tokhtarov streets and on constructing a second embankment to meet the approach of ice from Sukhtarka and the expected rise in the water level.

The commission has also taken a number of measures to organize bread supplies and transport. The bread combine has reserves of bread and is providing uninterrupted supply to the population. The commission does not expect the high water level to last for a long period.

SHILKA RIVER NAVIGATION STARTS -- Zabaykal'skiy Rabochiy, No 83, 29 Apr 49

Navigation has started on the Shilka River which is now completely free of ice. The steam cutter Tunguska made the first voyage, a scouting trip from Sretensk to the village of Pokrovka, on 27 April. The steamer Engels made its first trip from Sretensk to Ust'-Karsk on 29 April. The entire fleet and port facilities have been completely repaired.

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